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ORDINARY MEETING, FEBRUARY 9th, 1869.

PROFESSOR HUXLEY, *President, in the Chair.*

Sir J. Lubbock exhibited, on behalf of Mr. Lucas, a beautiful gold torque recently discovered in an Irish peat moss, at a depth of four feet, in the County of Sligo. He then read the following paper:—

VI.—*On Stone Implements from the Cape.* By SIR J. LUBBOCK.

I HAVE the honour to exhibit some stone flakes, etc., which I have recently received from Mr. Bush and Mr. Langham Dale, H.M. Superintendent-General of Education at the Cape of Good Hope.

Mr. Dale, in his letter accompanying the specimens, says, “All of these have been found by myself or members of my family on the great flat which lies between Table and False Bays. The material of which they are made is brought to the localities where we find them upon or among the drift sand. I suppose that there were here and there on the flat native kraals or villages, and that the *débris* which we discover are the cast-away implements. The quantity of small chips and flakes seems to indicate these spots as the local armouries.”

I have thought it desirable to bring these specimens before the Society, because, although the African races of man are almost all in a very barbarous state, so far as relates to social conditions, still a knowledge of rude metallurgy has been long and widely spread throughout Africa; and we know as yet scarcely anything about the stone implements which no doubt were once used in that Continent, as well as in other parts of the world. I venture on this point to speak with confidence, because I feel no doubt that man, whatever may have been his origin, would rapidly spread over all accessible regions of the earth's surface, while the recent discoveries in Europe seem conclusively to prove that the stone age was a period of very considerable duration.

The South African flakes, etc., are from one to five inches in length, of a coarse material, are rudely worked, and, as some of the specimens shew, they are made from pebbles of no great size. Some of them shew the original surface of the pebble.

Mr. Dale mentions that they were found in or on drift sand; and of this they bear evidence, having that peculiar glazed appearance presented by stones which have been rubbed by wind-blown sand. None of them present any trace of grinding. The majority are mere flakes; some, however, being re-

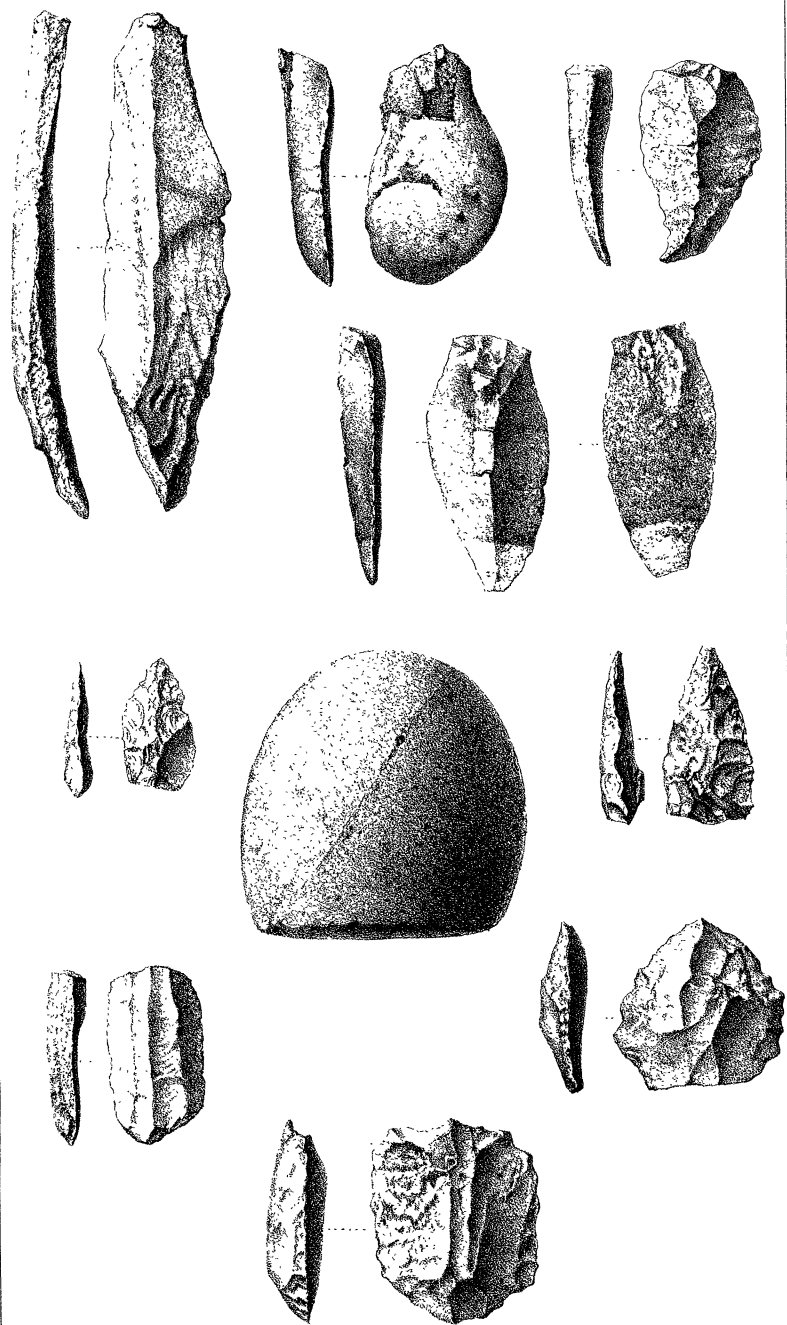
touched at the sides and point. One specimen has all the appearance of a "scraper"; the butt indeed is very rough, but the free end is worked up exactly like the ancient implements which are known under this name, and which are so abundant in Europe, or like the similar instruments used by the Esquimaux in cleaning skins. Several are more or less chipped along the sides, and brought to a point at one end. These are called "arrow-heads" by Mr. Dale; and they may certainly have served either as arrow-heads or javelin-heads; but they cannot be compared for beauty of finish or execution to the arrow-heads of Europe, America, or Japan.

The sling-stones are of the rough, polygonal, disk-like variety; and, though we may call them by this name for want of a better, we must, I think, do so with an admission of doubt. The collection does not include any good cores. The flakes, etc., seem, as already mentioned, to have been chipped from moderately-sized pebbles. There are, however, two large stones, partially worked; and I have brought for exhibition part of another, which, having been "flaked" all round, may be called a "core", though it is but a poor one.

I may also call attention to a short triangular very thick flake, with a regular point and a heavy butt, thus resembling one of the Lough Neagh forms, to which Mr. Evans has recently directed attention.

The South African flakes have the bulb of percussion well marked. In several specimens, however, the most convex portion is wanting. This has also been observed to be the case in some of the Yorkshire specimens, and it has been supposed that the most projecting portion of the bulb was purposely removed. This, however, was not the case: in proof of which, I exhibit two modern flakes shewing the same peculiarity, together with the nucleus from which they were struck; and, on looking at the surface from which each was detached, it will be seen that the missing portion of the bulb, though partially detached, is still adhering to the nucleus. It is evident, therefore, that the removal of the summit of the bulb is due to the nature of the material and the character of the fracture.

I take this opportunity of calling attention to the fact that, in one point, the modern flakes differ from all ancient ones which I have examined. If you look perpendicularly at the butt-end, you will see within the thickness of the flint a second circular fracture. I have not found anything similar in ancient flakes, nor in the obsidian flakes of Mexico. We know that the latter were obtained by pressure; and, as our modern gun-flint flakes are struck from the block, my first idea was, that in this distinction, we might see reason for concluding that the



Quartzite Implements from the Cape of Good Hope

1/2 size linear

J Jobbins.

ancient flint flakes, like the Mexican ones, were obtained by pressure. It must be admitted, however, that the modern flint knappers whom I have consulted, think it would be impossible to obtain long flint flakes by pressure.

I have also brought for exhibition three stones of a different character, which were sent to our vice-president, Mr. Busk, by his brother, Mr. C. S. Busk, and by him very kindly presented to me since the preceding notes were written. This collection includes a number of flakes closely resembling those forwarded by Mr. Dale, and, in addition, two ring-stones and several rubbers. The ring-stones, both of which were imperfect, were no doubt used to weight sticks used in digging up roots, etc. The rubbers are more or less elongated stones, and the rubbing surfaces slope, as would naturally happen, the stone being held in the hand.

The Society will see that all the stone objects yet received from the Cape indicate a condition of abject barbarism.

Remarks were made by the President, Professor Busk, and Col. Lane Fox.

The Honorary Secretary read the following paper:—

VII.—On Cromlechs and Megalithic Structures. By HODDER M. WESTROPP.

It is now a generally accepted canon that there are common instincts implanted by Nature on all the varieties of the human race, which lead mankind in certain climates and at a certain stage of civilisation, to do the same thing in the same way, or nearly so, even without teaching, or previous communication with those who have done so before. This has been remarkably confirmed in the analogous and almost identical forms of flint and stone implements found all over the world; and also in the identity of ornamentation, such as the zig-zag, guilloche, etc., designed independently by races the most widely apart.

A further confirmation of this are the analogous modes of burial, almost identical in their forms in different parts of the world.

Man, in his early and rude stage will adopt the simplest mode of burial suggested to him. The tumulus or mound of earth, the simplest and earliest form, is therefore found wide-spread among all peoples. As Sir John Lubbock says:—"In our island they may be seen in almost every town; in the Orkneys alone, it is estimated that more than two thousand still remain; they are found all over Europe, from the shores of the Atlantic to the Oural Mountains; in Asia, they are scattered over the great steppes, from the borders of Russia to the Pacific